

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 97-478-C – ORDER NO. 98-31

JANUARY 16, 1998

IN RE: Application of Sprint Communications) ORDER
Company for Modification of Tariff Filing) APPROVING
Procedures.) MODIFICATION
) OF TARIFF FILING
) PROCEDURES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”) on the request of Sprint Communications Company (“Sprint”) for modification of its tariff filing procedures. Specifically, Sprint requests that its business service offerings shall not be required to state maximum rates (caps) and that such rates shall be presumed valid upon filing, with the understanding that the Commission has the right within seven (7) days to establish an investigation of the tariff filing. Sprint’s Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-585.

Subsequent to the filing of the Application, the Commission's Executive Director instructed Sprint to cause to be published a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the area affected by the Application. The Notice of Filing indicated the nature of the Application and advised all interested parties desiring to participate in these proceedings of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for

participation in the proceedings concerning the Application. No protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed regarding Sprint's Application.

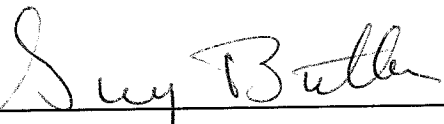
Upon examination of this matter, the Commission finds that Sprint's Application should be granted. In Docket No. 95-661-C, this Commission granted in part the Petition of AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. ("AT&T") for alternative regulation. Specifically, the Commission granted AT&T's request to modify the tariff filing procedures so as to remove the maximum rate (cap) requirements on business services offered under AT&T's Private Line Service Tariff, Customer Network Service Tariff, and all Consumer card and Operator Service offerings. Such action by the Commission was dependent upon AT&T filing tariffs which reflected average toll rates within South Carolina. Subsequent to the approval of AT&T's request for alternative regulation, the Commission granted similar petitions filed by Cable & Wireless, Inc. ("C&W") (Docket No. 96-047-C), MCI Telecommunications Corporation ("MCI") (Docket No. 96-278-C), Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. ("BellAtlantic") (Docket No. 96-167-C), and Ameritech Communications International, Inc. ("Ameritech") (Docket No. 96-167-C). Additionally, the Supreme Court of South Carolina rejected an appeal contesting the Commission's decision in the AT&T proceeding and affirmed the Commission's decision to remove price caps for certain of AT&T's business services.

As Sprint is requesting the same tariff filing procedures previously approved for other carriers, the Commission finds that Sprint's Application requesting modification of its tariff filing procedures should be granted. Pursuant to this Order, Sprint shall not be required to state maximum rates (caps) for its business service

offerings. Such rates shall be presumed valid upon filing, subject to the Commission's right within seven (7) days to institute an investigation of the tariff filing, in which case such filing shall be suspended pending further Order of the Commission. Further, Sprint shall be subject to the same monitoring process as similarly regulated companies.

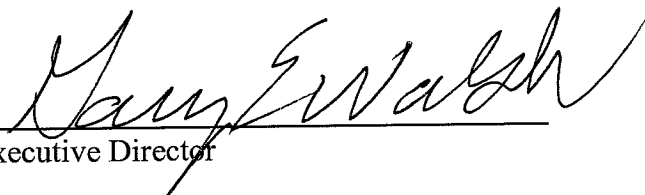
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:



Deputy Executive Director
(SEAL)